

NETHERLANDS PHILATELISTS of CALIFORNIA (now in its 45th year)

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February 2014

January meeting. Attending at the home of Dennis Buss were: Dennis Buss, HansPaul Hager, Stuart Leven, Arno Kolster, Hans Kremer, Paul Swierstra and Fred Van der Heyden.

NEW/ OLD BUSINESS

All agreed that the New Years' dinner and festivities at Uncle Yu's Restaurant in San Ramon was a grand success with excellent food and camaraderie. A total of fifteen members, wives and friends were in attendance.

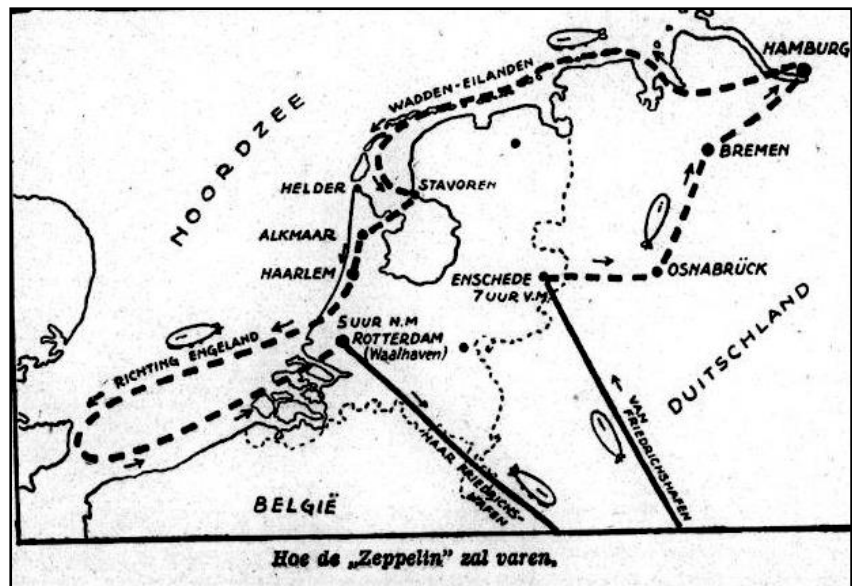
A donation of \$100 was made to the Alzheimer Association in memory of John Heimans.

Paul left 15 copies of the "Dutch Philately in North America" pamphlet at a stamp show in San Jose. Paul will also send copies of the handout to the secretaries of the member clubs of the Council of Northern California Philatelic Societies.

AROUND THE TABLE

HansPaul Hager passed around a copy of the *Twentsche Courant* of June 14, 1932 reporting on the expected arrival in Enschede of the airship Zeppelin, which was going to take place on June 18th. The Zeppelin was to come from Friedrichshafen, landing in Enschede at 7:00 a.m. (!). The rest of the route is shown on the map to the right.

HansPaul also passed around a 1908 document (registering a death) with fiscal stamps of



The **February 15th meeting** will be held at the home of Franklin Ennik starting at 12:30pm. Frank's telephone number is 925-952-9424.
The **March 15th meeting** will be held at the home of Albert Muller starting at 11:30am. Albert's telephone number is 510-733-2795. **Note the earlier start time if you want to enjoy lunch.**

the U.K. and the Netherlands; an announcement by the PTT of 1912 informing the postmasters that in order to detect clandestine text written under a stamp on a picture postcard (this was done to pay only 1 cent vs. the correct 2½ cent) one could smear a gasoline mixture over the stamp, which would make the stamp transparent and reveal any text hidden under it.

Hans Kremer showed some covers with Dutch Hytech postal meters. The latest version (shown here) is used for overseas mail and includes the Priority logo, something the previous version lacked and if you had not put a separate **PRIORITY** sticker on the envelope the letter could take considerably longer to reach its destination. Also passed around were copies of invoices of the 1930s showing the fiscal stamps that were used at that time; a 1945 Waubach (Lb.) radertype cancel shows the “open 4” and “straight 1” of 1945. These cancels were made in Belgium in late 1944, since no cancels could be ordered from the PTT

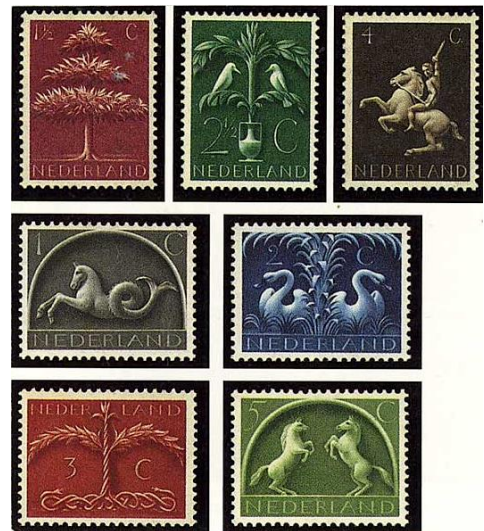


main office in The Hague which was still occupied at the time, while parts of the south of the Netherlands were already liberated during the fall of 1944. The “Belgian cancelers” were replaced by the regular PTT cancels later in 1945.

Fred Van Der Heyden brought some vintage picture postcards, among them a nice one (cancelled in 1903) of the Moerdijk Bridge (the main bridge that made it possible to move mail between Rotterdam and Antwerp by train which opened January 1 1872), and a Broek in Waterland postcard with a nice two-letter Transorma cancel on it.

Dennis Buss had purchased a copy of “*A History of Britain in Thirty-six Postage Stamps*” by Chris West. Every stamp tells a story. Ever since Queen Victoria’s Penny Black first burst onto the scene, stamps have depicted history as it happens. From the rise and fall of Empire to the defeat of Hitler, from Victoria’s coronation to the death of Diana, from the first railways and steamships to the advent of computers, every big event in British life has been reflected by a stamp. Dennis was surprised how many stamps were printed, some issues ran into the billions (the Penny Lilac of 1881: 33 billion (!!)). Dennis mentioned that some of the Dutch stamps were also printed in huge quantities, for example, 20 million of the 1852 5 cent and 17 million of the 10 cent denomination. Of the long running 1 cent 1899 “cipher type” a total of 2.2 billion (!) copies were printed. All this happened once the rate for sending a letter or postcard was lowered to a uniform rate, making communicating with people not in the immediate area much more affordable. Add to that the popularity of the picture postcards and one can see the explosion of the use of postage stamps.

Dennis also talked about the Dutch designer Pijke Koch, who designed a number of Dutch stamps, starting with the 1936, 300 Year University of Utrecht issue. He is also responsible for the more controversial 1943-1944 German symbols issue shown here. Although he did not design any Dutch stamps after that, Mr. Koch did design the 1957 Netherlands Antilles Baden Powell stamp issue.



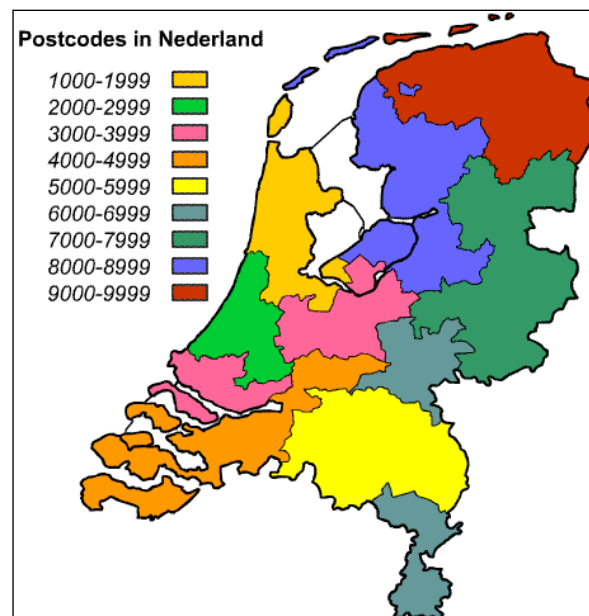
Paul Swierstra was given an album with pages full of covers with Dutch railroad block cancels or *blokstempels* which are his special interest.

Arno Kolster showed two blocks of four, **color proofs** of the 1852 issue. They were the 5 cent grey blue plate III, positions 31-32 and 36-37 and the 10 cent brick-red plate V, positions 31-32 and 36-37.



Stuart Leven posed the question how the Netherlands Zipcodes (*Postcodes*) currently used were assigned. It turns out that they start with the 10xx and 11xx series for Amsterdam and the surrounding area, then from Northwest to Southwest the 14xx through roughly 50xx series and then the 60xx through 99xx series from the Southeast to the Northeast, so basically in a counter clockwise direction.

(Source: Wikipedia....Postcodes in Nederland.)



Dutch Ambulance Service in Ethiopia 1935-1936

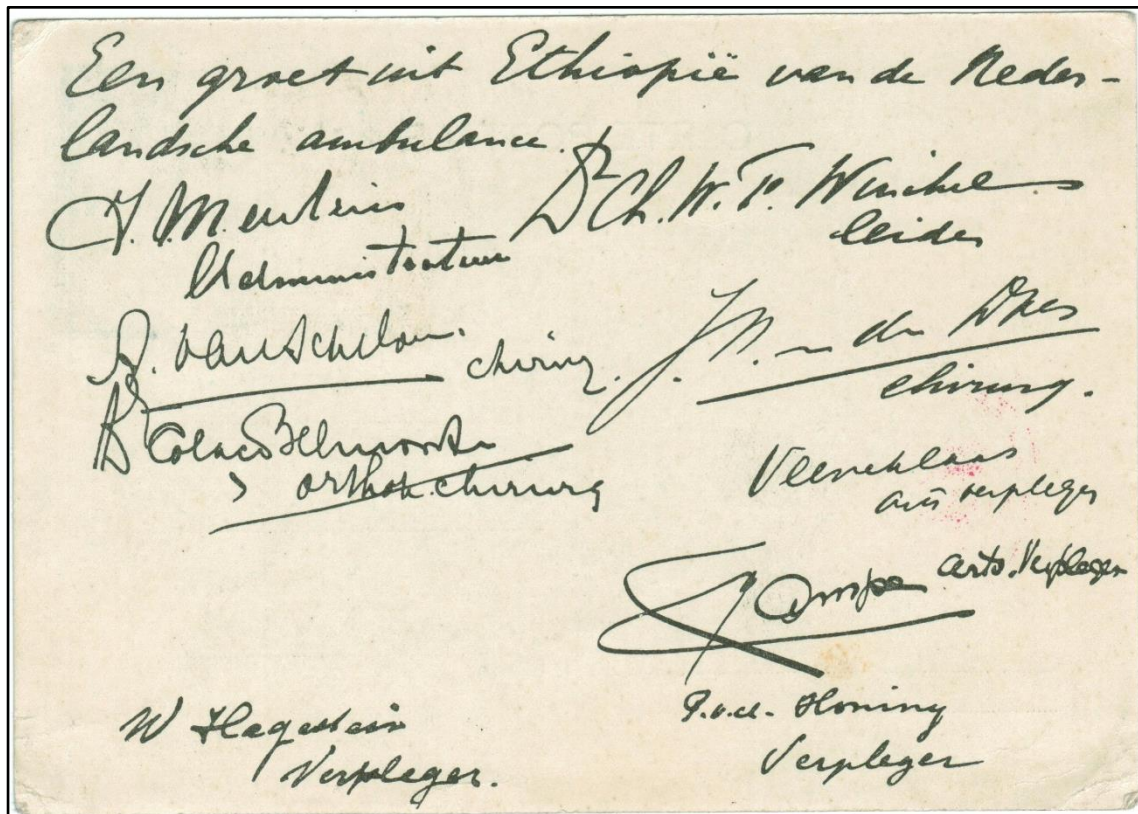
By Franklin Ennik

When the second Italo-Ethiopian War broke out in October 1935, twenty-five international Red Cross organizations sent medical assistance to Ethiopia in the form of money, medical supplies, equipment and personnel. In addition, the Ethiopian monarchy fielded six national medical brigades. All Christian mission hospitals and their staffs in Ethiopia were placed at the disposal of the Ethiopian Red Cross. The foreign ambulance brigades that participated in the conflict -- with vehicles, equipment, supplies and (*personnel*) -- were sent by the Red Cross organizations from Great Britain (20), Sweden (13), Egypt (11), The Netherlands (9), Norway (5), and Finland (5).



The Italian army and air force invaded Ethiopia from their neighboring colonies of Eritrea and Italian Somaliland. The Italian and Ethiopian military, on both sides of the conflict, bombed each other's medical facilities, inflicting many casualties, in defiance of League of Nations and Geneva Convention mandates. The Italian air force also dropped mustard gas on civilians and Red Cross compounds.

It was a bloody one-sided conflict lasting only seven months. The conflict ended in the spring of 1936 with the defeat of the Ethiopian monarchy by the better equipped, mechanized Italian military. In the end, the assistance of these various volunteer ambulance brigades (particularly Sweden) helped to foster a favorable relationship between these participating countries' governments and the Ethiopian monarchy after the Italian occupation ended in 1942.



On the face of the card on the previous page, is a red cachet of the **Nederl. Roode Kruis Hoofdbestuur** (Netherlands Red Cross Board of Directors). There is no readable cancel date on this card but most of these made-to-order cards were posted in 1936. These cards were sold to collectors with the proceeds benefitting the efforts of the volunteer team. The cards appear periodically in auctions and are franked with various Ethiopian stamps of the period.

On the reverse are the printed signatures of the nine-member Dutch team that volunteered for this mission. One of the stipulations required by the Ethiopian monarchy was that no women could be included in any of the foreign volunteer teams.

Greetings from The Netherlands Ambulance (Team) in Ethiopia

Dr. Charles W.F. Winckel	Leader and Surgeon
Dr. A.H.M. Colaço Belmonte	Orthopedic Surgeon
Jhr. Dr. J.N. van der Does	Surgeon
W. Hagestein	Trained nurse
P. van den Honing	Trained nurse
Dr. A. van Schelven	Physician
Dr. C. Lampe	Physician
Dr. G.M.H. Veenklaas	Physician
Ir. J.J.W. de Vries	Administrator

Several B&W movie clips of the Dutch ambulance brigade's participation in the 1935-36 war can be viewed on the Internet websites provided in the REFERENCES and made by the leader of the volunteer team, Dr. Charles W.F. Winckel.



The nine-member Dutch ambulance volunteer team at the Red Cross building in The Hague on the occasion of their audience with Queen Wilhelmina and Princess Juliana just-before their send-off to the war zone in Abyssinia, December, 1935. Fifth from right (with portrait of Queen Wilhelmina (?) in hand) is the leader of the team, Dr. Winckel.

References:

Wikipedia with the search words: *Dutch ambulance service Ethiopia*.
Rapporten van de ambulance naar Abyssinia, Dr. Ch. Winckel 1935-1936.
<http://onderscheidingen.nl/decorandi/nl/listrkmethiopie.html>
<http://www.geheugenvannederland.nl/?/nl/items/SFA03:SFA022804612>

Footnote: In 1936, the recipient of this card, Johannes Mulder (solicitor), lived at Hoofdstraat 3 in Hoogeveen. In 1943, there was a robbery attempt at the City Hall in Nieuw Schoonebeek by the underground resistance group KP DeKrim to steal ration cards. Due to carelessness the robbery attempt failed and a firefought ensued resulting in three towns-people being killed, one of whom was a resistance worker from Schoonebeek. A number of people living in Hoogeveen were betrayed by an NSB member. As a reprisal for this action, three towns-people in Hoogeveen were identified and shot by the occupiers in SpaarBank Bos. Among them were solicitor Johannes Mulder, Baron Marius de Jonge and school teacher Adriaan Baas. Two days later, two Jewish cousins, Levie and Manus van Wijk, were also shot. A monument to this tragedy now stands in the Spaarbank Bos in Hoogeveen. Translation and source with thanks to Fred Van der Heyden and Hans Kremer.
Source: http://www.waymarking.com/waymarks/WMBXRQ_Monument_in_the_Spaarbankbos_Hoogeveen_NL

I acknowledge with many thanks the assistance of Hans Kremer for preparing February meeting notes during my absence and holiday in January to various Caribbean ports of call and cruise into the Panama Canal with my wife, Meriel. Editor
